

# **Delta Emergency Planning and Response Workshop April 10, 2008 Meeting Summary**

*Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the April 10<sup>th</sup> Delta Emergency Planning Workshop, held at the Courtland Auditorium (180 Primasing Ave., Courtland, CA). It was an excellent event to begin an ongoing dialogue on comprehensive, regional emergency planning and education. Below is a short summary of the day's events; a more detailed overview of the workshop will also be forthcoming which will include a compilation of the feedback received from the public.. For any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the program speakers listed on the last page.*

## **Workshop purpose**

- Through a series of multi-agency panel and open house presentations, inform the public and interested agencies about existing and future emergency response planning coordination efforts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).
- Explain the emergency planning coordination efforts of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Delta Protection Commission (DPC), Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CA-OES), 5-County Flood Response Group (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo), and US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).
- Provide opportunities for public input in the planning process.

## **Workshop presentations**

- Topper Van Loben Sels, Vice Chairman of the DPC, delivered opening remarks, thanked the participants for attending, and explained the purpose of the workshop. He also explained the need for an emergency planning and response effort to coordinate the local, state, and federal agencies with emergency response duties.
- Adam Sutkus, senior mediator from the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), reviewed the agenda and described CCP's role in facilitating the event. Mr. Sutkus then explained that while the partner agencies present did not have the all of the answers for a regional emergency coordination effort, this and future workshops would provide a venue for continued inter-agency coordination. This type of workshop will also provide an ideal space for dialogue with public participants to provide input on emergency planning and response issues in the Delta.
- Bill Croyle, Branch Chief, DWR Flood Operations, delivered a presentation on current emergency response duties and activities within the Department, including the April 2007 DWR Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) concept paper.

In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger released a letter directing DWR and CA-OES to create/update a coordinated, multi-agency response plan for the Delta.

DWR is currently revising the April 2007 concept paper into a comprehensive flood preparedness plan for the Delta and coordinating other emergency preparedness activities when appropriate with a variety of local, state, and federal partners. A final EOP is expected in 2010.

- Linda Fiack, Executive Director, DPC, delivered a presentation on the DPC/CA-OES Delta Emergency Response Collaborative. The project arose out of a summit of the 5 Delta counties, who expressed the need for a coordinated plan to address the societal needs of Delta communities during a major emergency such as mass evacuation and care and shelter. This plan is intended to coordinate existing emergency response capabilities and identify potential service gaps.
- Mark Johnson, CA-OES, discussed the OES role in emergency response and the Delta Emergency Response Collaborative specifically. With guidance from the Governor, CA-OES is tasked with coordinating the actions of all state agencies during an emergency. For this reason, CA-OES, in cooperation with DPC, sponsored the Emergency Response Collaborative.
- A panel of representatives from the 5-County Flood Response Group including Ron Baldwin (San Joaquin County), Bill Martin (Yolo County), Roger Ince (Sacramento County), and Chris Boyer (Contra Costa) delivered a presentation on the 5-County Flood Response effort and their coordination with Emergency Response Collaborative. Representatives from each of the four counties present expressed the need for coordination between all involved entities, as well as the need for adequate resources to carry out any planning efforts.
- Russ Rote, Corps, delivered a presentation on the Corps' involvement in Delta emergency planning efforts, including the Corps' role in emergency situations and their planning authority under federal law. The Corps is the primary organization tasked with flood preparedness and response in the federal government under PL 84-99. Recent federal appropriations bills also direct the Corps to develop an emergency response plan and levee review with the appropriate local and state agencies.

### **Public Participation**

Before and after the presentations, members of the public and other meeting participants were invited to partake in an "open house" discussion with the various agencies present. Each agency had a booth with additional information on their emergency planning efforts and a representative to explain how these will be coordinated with the other agency partners present.

The public response was very positive with a substantial amount of encouragement to proceed with a coordinated effort. Several participants mentioned that continued efforts and dedicated resources will be required to create a successful, regional emergency plan. An ongoing partnership between the public and the agencies tasked to provide emergency coordination will be vital in protecting the Delta in a coordinated manner. A complete list of public comments will be available for review on the DWR website at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/> by Monday, May 19, 2008.

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